report submitted by the committee has been approved and is being implemented to strengthen security system of Railways.

- Adequate fund will be made available under the head security for modernization and other expenditure in the Railways.
- Sniffer dogs where available are utilized to check explosive devices at important stations and trains.
- The amendment in Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act 1966 has been proposed to control crime more effectively on the Railways.
- Intensive publicity and public awareness campaigns alerting and educating passengers / public to remain vigilant against any unidentified / unclaimed suspicious objects lying and to inform RPF, Government Railway Police / Railway Officials available nearby about such objects.
- Close co-ordination with GRP, State Police and State and Central Intelligence agencies for regular exchange of intelligence information.

Oil pilferage from trains

*272.SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantity of petrol / diesel is being pilfered from trains during their transit with the collusion of employees of petroleum companies and the Railways,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases of oil pilferage reported during the last year and the current year; and

(d) the action taken by Government against those employees found involved in oil pilferage or caught red-handed in each of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (c) Some cases of pilferage of oil from trains are reported. During the year 2007, total 17 cases of theft/pliferage of petroleum products involving loss of property valued Rs. 21,49,422/- were reported from trains during transit, inwhich property worth Rs. 3,16,815/- was recovered with arrest of 40 persons including 4 Railway employees. Cases were reported from Western Railway - 7 N.F. Railway 4, Eastern Railway – 1, Northern Railway - 1, E.C. Railway – 1 and S.W. Railway – 3. During the year 2008 (Upto November), 23 cases of theft/pilferage of petroleum products involving loss of property valued Rs. 2,10,82,327/- were reported from trains during transit, in which property worth Rs. 15,89,563/- were recovered with arrest of 25 persons. Cases reported from N.F. Railway – 8, Western Railway – 5, Eastern Railway – 3, E.C. Railway – 5, Northern Railway – 1 and N.E. Railway – 1. No. Petroleum Company employees was found involved in cases of theft/pilferage oil from wagons during transit. However, 4 Railway employees were found involved in pilferage of oil during the year 2007 over Western Railway. Out of 23 cases of theft/pilferage of oil reported during the year 2008, 08 cases involving loss of property valued Rs. 1,44,88,306/- were reported in N.F. Railway. The miscreants, reported to be affiliated to DHD and NSCN militant groups (Dima Halam

Daugha and National Socialist Council of Nagaland) committed theft/pilferage from tank wagons in N.F. Railway. Petroleum products valued Rs. 15,30,083/- were recovered with arrest of 2 miscreants during the year 2008 in N.F. Railway. Rangapahar to Diphu section (31 Kms) are affected. There is no proper road for Rangapahar – Diphu section, only road available passes through deep forest and hilly area falls under Dimapur District of Nagaland and Karbi Along District of Assam in the border of Nagaland and Assam. The area is seriously affected with the activities of the militant organizations called DHD (Dima Halam Daugha) and NSCN (Nagaland Socialist Council of Assam), where even the required assistance is also not received from Police during the night hours.

(d) All the 4 Railway Employees, who were arrested for their involvement during the year 2007, over Western Railway have been prosecuted under the provisions of Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act and also were taken up departmentally.

Damage to foodgrains

†*273. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 104 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th October, 2008 and state:

(a) the time when his Ministry received information regarding damage to foodgrains amounting to 846 lakh tonnes in 2005-06, 726 lakh tonnes in 2006-07, 750 lakh tonnes in 2007-08 and 452 lakh tonnes till September, 2008 in 2008-09;

(b) the time when the above foodgrains were procured, the amount spent on its maintenance and the places where it was kept;

(c) the market price of damaged foodgrains, the amount spent on disposing of the same and the reasons for rotting of foodgrains at each place; and

(d) the officers held responsible for that?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The quantities mentioned in part (a) of the Question are not quantities of damaged foodgrains but the quantities of foodgrains handled by FCI/State agencies during these years. The quantities of foodgrains damaged in 2005-06 was 0.95 lakh tons, in 2006-07 was 1.13 lakh tons, in 2007-08 was 0.34 lakh tons and during April 2008-September 2008 was 0.07 lakh tons, totaling 2.49 lakh tons. During the above years, FCI/State agencies handled 2782.31 lakh tons of foodgrains, on maintaining which an amount of Rs.2567.46 lakh was spent. The foodgrains were stored in the godowns of FCI and State agencies in different parts of the country.

(c) The reserve price of damaged foodgrains accrued in FCI during 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 & 2008-09 (till September, 2008) is Rs. 157.48 crores and amount spent on their disposal is Rs. 1.12 crores.

The foodgrains were damaged due to various reasons, such as, cyclones and floods and some quantities due to acceptance of below specifications stocks and movement to other regions.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.